

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Slaughter and Reynolds Celebrate Opening of New NFARS Military Entrance Processing Center

MEPs Facility Will Serve as Gateway for 12,000 Recruits Annually

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, and Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds (R-NY-26) were today joined by numerous officials from the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the base's new Military Entrance Processing Center (MEP).

Rep. Slaughter and Rep. Reynolds secured \$6.3 million in federal appropriations needed to fund construction of the Center.

"This base and the MEPs center we are celebrating embody the future of our armed services," Rep. Slaughter said. **"The efficiency and professionalism we see here have been recognized time and again by military leaders. That's why NFARS was chosen for the critical task of regional recruitment."** □

"All of the dedicated men and women who will come through this MEPs facility will ensure our fighting forces have a bright future," Rep. Slaughter said, "and this Center will help ensure a bright future for Western New York."

The MEPs facility will serve as the base of operations for all regional armed services recruiting, and is expected to process 12,000 recruits annually from Pennsylvania and Western New York.

"The Department of the Army surveyed facilities within a 100-mile area and determined that the Air Reserve Base at Niagara Falls was the optimal site for its requirements and the most efficient means to meet the military's needs," Congressman Thomas M. Reynolds said.

"This facility will be able to process approximately 12,000 applicants a year from 11 counties in Western New York and 3 counties in Pennsylvania. □ This is good news for our troops, the base and Western New York."□

Among those joining Rep. Slaughter and Rep. Reynolds at the event were Col. Jim Roberts of the 914th Airlift Wing, Col. Patrick Ginavan of the 107th Airlift Wing, Col. Barrye Price, Commander of the Eastern Sector for UMMEPCOM, Armando Jimenez of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Major Law, the New York District Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers.

BACKGROUND

The Defense Department has stated its intention to make military forces more efficiently meet future in an increasingly cost-effective fashion. Military bases are expected to increasingly exercise joint-use capabilities, work more closely together, and share resources.

In line with this goal, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station was chosen to serve as the headquarters of regional recruitment activities. NFARS has consistently met nearly 100 percent of its recruitment goals in recent years.

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